

Region 7 All Hands Conference Call
Remote Operations
Thursday, Feb. 18 @ 1:00 p.m.
All Hands Call # 43

Mark Hanson - INTRO: [Video Live]

Timing: 1:00 p.m. – 1:02 p.m.

Ed Chu – WELCOME REMARKS [Video Live]

Timing: 1:01 p.m. – 1:06 p.m.

[TRANSITION UPDATE]

- Hello everyone and welcome back to our weekly All-Hands call.
- I hope everyone has been able to stay safe and stay warm these past few days.
- I know many of you, as did I, lost electricity as the temperatures throughout the region continued to strain our power grid.
- Most of the power outages here, lasted from 30-90 minutes – which is better than what we've seen in other parts hit by the latest arctic blast.
- Please know that your managers and I understand the additional strain this can cause, especially those with children at home who are taking classes virtually.
- Thankfully, the weather forecast looks a little more promising with temperatures expected to move into double digits again by this weekend – *I honestly don't think I've ever been so happy to see temperatures in the 20's and 30's...*

- In the meantime, please make sure that you and your family members are taking appropriate precautions to stay safe.
- Region 7 issued a press release yesterday reminding Families to Beware of Deadly Indoor Air from Portable Generators and Other Portable Sources for Heating, Cooking and Lighting.
- Also, please continue to maintain ***personal preparedness*** within your homes.
- This includes making sure phones, tablets and other devices are charged, having an emergency kit on hand with blankets, warm layers of clothes, and flashlights with fully charged batteries.
- While the temperatures in the region plummeted, the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment requested assistance from Region 7 in responding to a release of materials from storage tanks at an ethanol plant near Mead.
- On-scene coordinator Doug Ferguson and a START contractor traveled to Nebraska in extreme winter weather conditions to assist in tracing the extent of off-site migration and collect samples in a drainageway and on the facility.
- I also want to take this opportunity to thank Doug Ferguson, Tim Curry, Danny O'Connor and Ken Buchholz who all played important roles in the coordination effort for this spill response in Nebraska.
- Again, thank you for what you do – despite the COVID19 pandemic and extreme winter weather – your efforts showcased the EPA Team's dedication to protecting human health and the environment.

Ed Chu – INTROCUITION OF JANE NISHIDA AND DAN UTECH [Video Live]

Timing: 1:06 p.m. – 1:08 p.m.

- I'd like to transition now over to talking about the transition - as I'm sure many are already aware, the Biden-Harris Administration nominated North Carolina environmental Secretary Mike Regan for EPA Administrator.
- The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works voted to approve the nomination and forwarded it to the full Senate for a vote, which is scheduled to address the nomination on Feb. 22.
- In our All Hands Meetings the past few weeks we've been talking about the transition to the Biden-Harris Administration, and President Biden's Executive Orders that relate to EPA.
- So today, we're privileged to have two very special guests joining us who are at the head of EPA and can offer more insights from their interactions with the White House and other Departments about the Biden-Harris priorities.
 - EPA Acting Administrator Jane Nishida, and
 - EPA Chief of Staff Dan Utech.
- Some of you may know Jane as the former deputy assistant head of the Office of International and Tribal Affairs. She has been part of EPA since 2011, and before that, served as a senior environmental specialist at the World Bank.
- Dan is also familiar to many of us. He previously served as the Deputy Assistant to former President Obama for Energy and Climate Change. Prior to joining the White House, Dan served as a Senior Advisor to the Energy Department.

- I'd like to turn it over to both Jane and Dan to introduce themselves.
- And, I'm curious: Is this the first Regional All Hands Meeting you've participated in?

JANE NISHIDA - SELF INTRODUCTION [Video Live]

Timing: 1:06 p.m. – 1:08 p.m.

-----Turns it over to Dan Utech

DAN UTECH – SELF INTRODUCTION [Video Live]

Timing: 1:08 p.m. – 1:10 p.m.

-----Turns it back over to Ed Chu

ED CHU, JANE NISHIDA, DAN UTECH – Q&A SESSION [Video Live]

Timing: 1:10 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

- **Questions for Jane:**
 - As a career senior executive serving as the Acting EPA Administrator, you have such a unique view on the Presidential Transition. Please share what it's been like for you and the work you've been doing?
 - How have you been preparing for the arrival of the Administrator, once confirmed?
- **Questions for Dan:**
 - When you were preparing to be the Chief of Staff at EPA, did you have a particular notion about what the EPA career staff would be like?

- Now that you're here, what has been your experience with the career staff?
- **Additional Questions:**
 - The Administration has already taken steps to fulfill President Biden's commitment to tackle the climate crisis, while creating jobs and achieving environmental justice.
 - Since tackling the Climate Crisis will require a whole-of-government approach, can you share a little more about how you see EPA supporting the Administration's work on climate change?
 - What can you tell us about the Administration's priority on ensuring Environmental Justice and Equity in protecting public health and the environment?
- *[Placeholder for any additional notes/reflections]*

ED CHU, JANE NISHIDA, DAN UTECH – OPEN Q&A SESSION [Video Live]

Timing: 1:20 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

- *OPA will scan for any relevant questions from the Q&A board.*
- Thank you for those great questions and thank you Jane and Dan for taking the time out of your schedule to join us today. We greatly appreciate your willingness to discuss the future of EPA as move forward under this new administration.
- I would like to give you one more opportunity for any final remarks to the Region if you have any.
- *[Placeholder for any additional notes/reflections from Jane and Dan]*

Ed – Closing Comments [Ed Video Live]

Timing: 1:25 p.m. – 1:28 p.m.

- To close out today's call, I'd like to give a quick update on our Regional Black History Month celebration.
- We are truly honored to have such a diverse collection of employees here in Region 7 and we remain committed to fighting and addressing inequality in all of its forms.
- To commemorate Black History Month, the R7 Black Employment Program is hosting a regional celebration via Microsoft Teams on February 23, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be **Carl Boyd**, a local Kansas City education consultant, who will be speaking on this year's theme: ***The Black Family: Representation, Identity & Diversity.***
- A link is being posted in the Q&A for more information on that event.
- And Remember, our next All Hands Meeting will take place two weeks from today on March 4.
- [Placeholder for any specific notes/reflections]
- With that, take care and **stay SEVEN STRONG.**

Mark – CLOSING ALL HANDS [SLIDE DECK]

Timing: 1:29 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.